

Spring Magazine 2022

Idaho Insider by Executive Director Suzi Budge

BACK TOGETHER AGAIN!

Idaho Member Meeting in Las Vegas – February 22, 2022

Thanks to Idaho members for taking time out of their day during the Las Vegas WPMA Convention to get an update on the latest legislative issues during the 2022 legislative session. We had a great turnout for a quick review of legislation, a plan for our PAC golf outings, a discussion of the upcoming 2022 redistricting election cycle, and reminder about the 2022 IPM&CSA Convention, this year in Coeur d'Alene, August 3-5 (Note to self – get your room reserved early!) and the EMA Day on the Hill in Washington D.C. May 17-19 at the Mayflower Hotel. Thanks to members and friends for joining us for the Idaho member meeting in Las Vegas.

WPMA Hall of Fame Award 2022

– Our Own Brett Adams of Adams Petroleum

Cheers to Brett as the recipient of the 2022 WPMA Hall of Fame Award. And our utmost gratitude to Brett and Mary Francis for their many years of service to IPM&CSA, WPMA and PMAA/EMA. Brett served as President of IPM&CSA and WPMA. Brett has always been there for us to run shooting and golf events, and he and his lovely bride, Mary Francis, have for years celebrated both of their birthdays and their anniversary at the Idaho Convention. Now that's commitment to the cause. Congratulations to an award well deserved.

2022 Idaho Legislature – Overview

Welcome back to business (almost) as usual at the Idaho Statehouse for the 2022 legislative session. All hearing rooms have better remote access, and you can now sign up and testify on-line without making the long drive to Boise. That has saved IPM&CSA President Matt Berry at least one 12-hour round trip drive, so there's that. COVID is still out there, but at least at the Idaho Capitol, the pandemic is no longer driving the agenda for most of us working in the building, or for most in Idaho, I daresay.

I'll have a complete wrap-up when the Legislature adjourns for the session, but meantime, here are some of the things to watch for in 2022, and here's a prediction: With unprecedented growth and money, all new legislative districts, and a huge election cycle looming — look for big disruptions in 2022.

Idaho is awash in money – with a \$1.9 billion (yes that's billion with a “B”) surplus in the state General Fund, and \$18 billion in federal pandemic-related funds, Idaho is awash in money ... more money than the state has ever seen or ever had to budget and appropriate. (For reference, Idaho has a \$5 billion general fund budget). In FY2023, you can add a couple of zeros to every agency budget (albeit one-time money) as that's what we are seeing. \$100 million here and there, and pretty soon, it's really money! Let's just hope it's not built into the base, because this is unsustainable. Idaho agencies simply can't easily spend this amount of money efficiently. It is swamping their systems, and much is being off-ramped into several reserve funds that the state has set up over time (for budget stabilization, water pollution control, public schools, and the like.) The state's piggy banks are full to the brim, set aside for future use. The objective is to rebuild Idaho's infrastructure with one-time projects including education

funding, transportation, broadband, workforce. This is a laudable goal, but easier said than done. Stand by for how this all plays out.

It's A Big Election Year – 2022 is a very big election year – top to bottom on the ballot and with a new electoral map for legislative and congressional districts. This spells big disruption in the players, organization and leadership at the statehouse. Some predict that more than half of the legislature could be new in 2023. Mark your calendar for the May 17 Primary Election and get out to vote. Your future may depend on it!

Redistricting – The dust has settled on the work of the Citizen Redistricting Commission and the 5 or 6 lawsuits that followed – all thrown out by the Idaho Supreme Court. Now the 105 legislators will look to their future. Will they move on, retire, move to higher office, or fight to serve in a new legislative district with new constituents, demographics and geography? We're about to find out. Stand by for the filing period to close and campaign season to begin.

IPM&CSA Legislative Agenda: *Industry Issues to Watch*

IPM&CSA representatives are on the ground and engaged with lawmakers during the 2022 session. Here are some issues to watch: (IPM&CSA Position)

Retail –

Lottery

H607 - Powerball – retains the game in Idaho (IPM&CSA Supports)

Tobacco/vaping/alcohol

S1284 – Age of tobacco use, possession – raises the age in Idaho from 18 to 21 (IPM&CSA Supports)

S1285 – Tobacco, local regulations prohibited (IPM&CSA Supports)

S1308 – Liquor, serving age – drops the age to 17 (IPM&CSA Supports)

Credit Card Interchange fees

S1293 – removes interchange fee from sales tax portion of a transaction (IPM&CSA Supports)

Taxes – Income / Property / Sales Tax

H436 - \$600 million income tax relief / rebate & rate reduction (IPM&CSA Supports)

Property Taxes (limitations, freeze, homeowner's exemption, circuit-breaker)

Sales Tax / Tax Credit on Groceries

Environmental

S1254 – DEQ Air quality programs / Treasure Valley emissions program

S1264 – DEQ - Land remediation, rescission (IPM&CSA Supports)

Employment

H450 - UI Rate Freeze (IPM&CSA Supports)

H444 - COVID liability protection (IPM&CSA Supports)

Transportation / Vehicles

1307 - License Plate, Single

Federal Funds - Infrastructure & COVID Relief

Transportation, broadband, workforce training, and then some.

Idaho Joins Surrounding States to Oppose Washington's Fuel Export Tax

In the category of really bad ideas, Washington state lawmakers recently proposed a six-cent per gallon export tax on all fuel leaving the state of Washington. This misguided legislation applied not only to fuel pulled from Spokane,

but also fuel received in Pasco, Washington. Likely unconstitutional as a violation of the U.S. Commerce Clause, an export tax on fuel falls heavily on north Idaho and Oregon. Reaction from surrounding states was swift and strong with the Governors of Idaho, Oregon, Alaska and Utah responding to Washington's Governor Enslee to oppose the tax and ask for his Veto. Idaho lawmakers quickly jumped into the fray:

- Governor Little and Attorney General Wasden sent a letter and issued a press release denouncing the tax.
- The Idaho legislature passed HJM5, a Memorial condemning Washington's proposal.
- Dozens of Idaho business and resource groups signed a letter opposing the tax, and,
- The Speaker of the Idaho House penned a widely published guest opinion opposing the tax.

In the end, the bill was withdrawn by the sponsor, and none too soon, as states were preparing to back up their opposition with retaliatory legislation and legal challenges. We appreciate Idaho state leadership and unity in opposing this misguided effort from our neighbor to the west.

Legislative Wrap-Up

It's never safe to leave the Statehouse during the final days of the legislature, as much of the action takes place during the waning days of the session. The going home issues in 2022 will include the Governor's priorities of \$600 million in direct tax relief to Idaho citizens, funding for education, and vast amounts of federal money for infrastructure – be it roads and bridges, water and sewer, broadband and then some. Be on the lookout for a thorough review after the 2022 session wraps up. On the horizon: 2022 election cycle with new legislative and congressional districts in play. Look for a huge turnover in legislative districts and who represents you at the Statehouse.

Upcoming Event Reminders

IPM&CSA PAC Golf Event – Tuesday, April 19, 2022 Ridgecrest Golf Course, Nampa Idaho

– Register online at <https://www.wpma.com/idaho/calendar-of-events>; Stay tuned for details on lunch and tee times.

IPM&CSA Board Meeting – Wednesday, April 20, 2022 – IPM&CSA board members will meet April 20 in Boise to review the legislative session and plan for the upcoming convention in Sun Valley.

Energy Marketers of America (EMA) Day on the Hill Washington D.C. May 17-19, 2022

Mayflower Hotel, 1127 Connecticut Ave. NW, WDC 20036 – IPM&CSA will make our annual trip to Washington D.C. to visit members of the Idaho Congressional Delegation for EMA Board Meeting and Day on the Hill.

IPM&CSA Convention and Trade Show – August 3-5, 2022 Coeur d'Alene Resort

– Call now and reserve your room at the Coeur d'Alene Resort. Our room block always fills up early for our annual event, so be sure to get your spot reserved early. (Register online for the convention at <http://www.wpma.com>. *Rooms booked separately with the resort. Ask for the IPM&CSA room block.*)